
ARENA REPORT

Volume II, Number 2

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE
Wednesday, September 27, 1989
Worcester Memorial Auditorium
Worcester, MA

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Welcome to another round of "Arena Report". Thanks to a recent rash of plugs, I have many new readers to welcome, and I hope you enjoy the ride. Talk about news. Lots of talent changes among the big two in the past couple of weeks. "Ramblings" will have all the details. Besides this NWA report (compliments of Louie Fortuna), we've got a review on the last Clash. (I know. It seems ages ago.) A report on the NWA syndicated TV tapings which took place in Johnstown, PA this past Monday is also included as well as the regular features. Happy to say that most of the responses on publishing twice a month even without a live report were all favorable except one. And that came from my past home state of CT. Any guesses? But it looked like that was all wasted space last issue as both the Whiff and TNT will be coming to Orlando in Oct. A good chance Florida Championship will start running again as well since they landed a 9:00 a.m. Sat. slot on the strongest UHF signal in Orlando.

The next issue of "AR" will originate from the Orlando Civic Center and the NWA on October 10. A Tuesday night. Could be interesting. I'm hoping it's not TV night as every time they do TV in Florida, they kill the town for a few months due to mostly squashes. They are also plugging a Flair-Funk match which is stupid for obvious reasons. Funk won't be there so why piss the fans off. They sold out last time here so this return in midweek puzzles me. Then again, everything the NWA does lately puzzles me and it doesn't take much. The second issue of October will be the WWF's special 5:00 start time at the Orlando Arena. The date is 10/22 and what a main event. Hulk Hogan defends against..... Bad News Brown. Brown is fresh off a victory over Louie Spiccoli which earned him this shot. We also get to see American justith therved with Dusty against Boss Man, who belongs in jail himself, but that's a story for someone else to tell.

"Arena Report" is published twice per month at the single copy price of 75¢. Back issues are available at \$1.00 a piece. There is a number at the top of this page which shows how many issues you have remaining on your subscription. All renewals, match reports, and letters may be sent to Ron Lemieux, 370 Lake Tahoe Ct. #102, Altamonte Springs, FL 32701. Keep those letters coming! And now, from the state that Hugo spared, let's go to the home of Sturbridge Village. (Meaningless intro since no one outside of New England has the faintest idea what I'm talking about.)

Opening Match

Eddie Gilbert defeated Cuban Assassin in 13:05. "Hot Stuff" had Assassin in abdominal stretch and dropped back and cradled him for the win.

2nd Match

Z Man (Tom Zenk) beat Norman the Lunatic at 10:29. Zenk was a sub for Pillman. The story I got on Brian was that last weekend, someone

broke into his apartment and stabbed his girlfriend with an ice-pick while he was on the road. Zenk used a flying body press on Norman for the win. A fan took Teddy Long's hat off and flung it across the arena and T.L. had the fan tossed from the building.

3rd Match

Steve Williams downed Mike Rotunda in 9:35 using the stampede. Feud is meaningless and no one cares.

Tag Team Match

Skyscrapers beat Dynamic Dudes in 14:44 as Dan Spivey pinned Johnny Ace. All four were in the ring. Teddy got on the apron and Cornette came over and grabbed his leg. As Shane came over to help, the scrapers gave Ace a double power bomb. Fans 80% behind the Skys.

5th Match

Tommy Rich beat Jacko Victory in 10:25 with the Thesz press. Victory subbed for Luger who was there but had stitches on his head. Not sure what happened. (You'll be hearing some of this info in the Johnstown report.)

6th Match

Bobby Eaton pinned Michael Hayes at 13:51. Was supposed to be tag title with Midnights vs. Birds but Garvin no showed as a tree crashed through his house from Hugo. So will he no show all week? Have Precious handle it. Bobby went for a sunset flip but as P.S. held on, Cornette gave him a racquet shot to the head and Bobby pinned him. Where was the ref?

7th Match

Animal romped over Rip Morgan in 6:53. Was supposed to be tag with Roadies & Militia but Hawk is having personal problems back in Minneapolis. Animal gave Militia double clothesline when Victory tried to interfere and then pinned Rippah.

NWA TV Championship

Sting beat Great Muta via DQ in 6:36. Good match but short. Same finish as Hart interfered when Sting went to use the scorpion.

NWA World Heavyweight Championship

Ric Flair retained the title beating Terry Funk in 12:12. Wait a minute. I thought Terry was suspended. This will look real well. I guess since Dick Slater is leaving for Japan, they didn't know who else could replace him. But at least wait until you've announced his reinstatement on television. Decent match. Funk remains a nut. Great heat and finish wasn't anything spectacular as Ric used a small package. (Not a "Total" one.)

Notes

Crowd was only 700 but when I heard that Vince only drew 2,000 here Monday night, I knew Turner would die. They had only 130 sold a few days before the card and Flair and Juster wanted to cancel but Herd said the NWA doesn't cancel shows... "Arena Reporters" Scott Dickinson, Steve Dickinson, and Ted Field were all in prominence. Scott worked the concessions, Steve was the ring attendant and Ted shot the matches for Apter... The boys need to get their act together and be more committed. The hierarchy isn't happy with Garvin's situation as they figured he'd only miss a couple of dates. Sounds like he's weaseling some extra time off.

Ramblings

Some of you have heard, others have not, but Tully Blanchard and Arn Anderson have officially given their notice to the WWF. Their last night will be at Survivors and they'll be going back to the NWA. If I was them, I'd no show Turkey day. I know it's unethical but they'll get buried beyond belief. I look for the Rockers to take the straps although someone mentioned to me that the biggest humiliation would be for them to lose it to the Bushwhackers. They will return to the NWA at Starcade... If that wasn't enough for Vince to swallow, the Rougeau Brothers are retiring after Survivore. Seems they've invested their money real well and are tired of the travelling... The heel teams will be depleted save for the Powers of Pain. If I were the NWA, I would lock Sting and Luger in the Atlanta offices and not let them out except for match time as you know Vince will look for revenge.... Paul E. Dangerously was fired after a run in with Ric Flair. Sources say they wanted Paul E gone anyway. Don't be surprised if Eddie Gilbert follows suit. He and Paul are tight and the NWA is trying to get rid of "Hot Stuff" as well. Couple this with the fact that Flair was hot at Missy as she was supposed to wear the same outfit as Robin at the Clash and the camera was to have caught someone with a black glove tripping Scott and the controversy would grow from there. Doesn't matter. They didn't let the angle fester long enough anyway.... The booking now is just terrible and some say it is because Flair is listening too much to Kevin Sullivan.... Ole Anderson is in and booking as well. Some say he'll be the new advisor to Luger which isn't sitting too well with the "Total Package".... Fatu and Samu to be joined by Tama with Humberdink as their manager when they return. I like the idea.... Vince may have more personnel problems soon as nine more guys are thinking of handing in their notices. Wasn't given any specific names but was told two "names" are real close.... You think my Hogan-Brown main event will be bad. How about Hogan vs. Poffo. Vince wants to see if it's Hulk's name that can draw alone or if he needs a name opponent. It won't draw. Titan has had a bad month at the gate.... This may not be the best indy line-up of the year but definately the most interesting. The same promoter who booked Midnights and Badd Company in Medina, Ohio has booked a show in Cleveland sometime in November. Here it is: Zybyisko & Landell vs. Killer Bees, Lawler vs. Kamala, Regal vs. Sam Houston, Paul Jones vs. Ivan Koloff, Moolah vs. Heidi Lee Morgan, King Parsons vs. Manny Fernandez, and get this main event; Kerry Von Erich vs. Paul Orndorff.... Brian Pillman to get a shot at Lex Luger during "Halloween Havoc".... Shocking but true. Tony Atlas is contemplating returning to Puerto Rico. Get a body bag ready. This guy really doesn't have any grey matter between his ears.... I'm sorry, but the new Fantastics are terrible. Jackie Fulton reminds me of a skinny jobber. They should have made Tommy Rogers an offer he couldn't refuse. These guys are going nowhere.... Diamond Dallas Page turned face and will manage Steve Keirn. Him and Sonny King will feud.... Call me corny but every time I see Tommy Rich or Dick Slater in a match I want to enjoy it and I pull for them to work a good one. I enjoyed both of them in their prime... Here's the line up for the WWF's fifth annual "King of the Ring" tourney set for Providence 10/14: Opening round- Bad News-Santana, Windham-Butch Miller, Beefcake-Akeem, Warlord-Luke Williams, Snuka-Barbarian, Neidhart-Hercules, Martel-Hillbilly, Taylor-Haku. Boss Man vs. Dusty in the main and not part of tournament. Bad line up but I bet you guess who will win. It's time for Barry's push.... Independant group running in Stuart, FL 10/25 with Sika, Buggy McGraw, Bill Mulkey, Rusty Brooks, Luna, and Bambi.... Slick Nic Volkoff returning to the Fed. Matched up with Herc in most places.... To correct a mistake in my Clash review, Flair and Sting will team against Muta and Funk in a cage at the next PPV.... John Herron of Rt #1 Box 142, Marble Hill, MO 63764 is interested in trading

Clash of the Champions VIII Review

1) The Road Warriors beat The Samoan Swat Team in 6:44. Hopefully, this feud is over. Not that the bouts were bad but too many of them. Paul E threw the phone in the ring but Hawk hit Fatu knocking out of the ring. Paul Ellering threw it to Hawk who nailed Fatu with it. Roadies then did the clothesline off the top rope and Fatu took a nasty bump. Retribution for all those stiff splashes on jobbers. *** 2) Z Man beat Cuban Assassin in his NWA debut and wrestling debut if you listen to Ross & Cornette. No mention of Tom Zenk. Sounds like the Widowmaker. Let's stop trying to be the WWF will you. His finisher is the worst in the world. The sleeper. Get it? Zzzzzzz. $\frac{1}{2}$ * 3) Sid Vicious squashed Ranger Ross in 1:09. What was the point of this one? I like the pro-peller move. They should have had a Roadie run in to set up the feud. * 4) Freebirds retained their World Tag belts by defeating the Steiner Brothers in 10:24. Scott was cleaning house until he tripped going into the ropes and Garvin gave him the DDT. They ran an angle where Robin and Missy were pointing at each other saying they tripped Scott with Rick siding with Robin and Scott with Missy. They missed the camera angle on purpose but it would have been funny with these guys if they accidentally caught it and blew the angle. *** $\frac{1}{2}$ 5) Brian Pillman upended Norman the Lunatic at 3:38. Best match I've seen between these two. All action. Norman went for a clothesline but Brian jumped up and hooked the Loonie's other arm and dropped back for a pin. *** $\frac{1}{4}$. After, Teddy Long was hitting Norman making it smell like a turn and the WWF's answer to George Steele. (By the way, after the SST match, they left Paul E. in the ring so he'll be doing announcing only very soon.) 6) Steve Williams pinned Mike Rotunda in 7:04. Decent match but I'm tired of these two also. Give Doc something meaningful. Williams had Mike up for a bodyslam but Rotunda grabbed the rope. Ref Tommy Young kicked it and they fell back but Doc rolled on top for the pin. * $\frac{1}{2}$ 7) Lex Luger retained the US Title beating Tommy Rich in 10:06. The surprise of the night. "Wildfire" and "The Total Package" let out all the stops. The only bad part was where Tommy dropped Lex on his head. Rich had a sleeper clamped on while he was in the ring and Lex was on the apron. Luger dropped down and Rich clotheslined his neck on the top rope. Luger scored the pinfall. *** $\frac{1}{4}$ 8) Ric Flair & Sting beat Great Muta & Dick Slater via DQ in 18:54. The poor NWA. Terry Funk had legit surgery on his elbow which had a staph infection. But to the average fan, they got screwed on the main event. A near pin had me out of my seat. Sting had the scorpion on Muta but Gary Hart came in and whacked Sting with a roll of coins. Muta covered but the Stinger kicked out. Muta eventually blew the mist in Sting's face and Slater hit Flair with the cast drawing blood. Terry Funk appeared out of nowhere (to us he did. He came from under the ring where he was all night but no one watching could tell from the bad camera angle.) and put a garbage bag over Ric's head and tied a rope around it. No one came to make the save and they cut to commercial. Too many missed camera shots, the worst one of all was the dives done one after the other by Muta and Sting. I've not decided if I like the angle or not. If Flair comes out in his interviews and says Funk tried to kill him, it stinks. The angle isn't that far off from the Von Erich fake heart attack and remember how many of us hated that one?... Not enough angles on the card but overall I enjoyed it. I think not having Funk in the main put more heat on the PPV in Oct. which looks like an "I Quit" match between Flair and Funk.... I gave more 3* plus matches on this card than any other but the final angle left a bad taste in my mouth. I gave that bout ****.

Correspondent Reports

Met Center

Bloomington, MN

September 9, 1989

Correspondent: Wade Olson

1) Tugboat Tyler beat Brooklyn Brawler. 2) Haku and Tito Santana went to a draw. 3) Dusty Rhodes pinned the Big Boss Man after Slick accidentally hit Boss with the nightstick. 4) Rick Rude went to a double count out with Roddy Piper. 5) Demolition beat Brain Busters via DQ. 6) Hacksaw Duggan defeated Ted DiBiase.

Kemper Arena

Kansas City, MO

September 16, 1989

Correspondent: Bruce Grummert

1) Cuban Assassin beat Richard "Ding" Sartain in 12:15. Good heat drawn by Assas. Cuban won with a small package. 2) Dynamic Dudes beat New Zealand Militia in a great tag bout which saw some great moves by the Dudes. 3) Butch Reed returned to the NWA and beat Scott Hall. Highlight of this one was Bruce getting on Reed. Looks like Mr. Grummert has found a replacement for Bob Brown. 4) Rick & Scott Steiner went to a double count out with the Skyscrapers in 16:00. Chairs, the guardrail, everything was used in this one. 5) Lex Luger retained the US Title by defeating Tommy Rich in 10:29. Luger did his great heel antics at ringside. 6) Dick Murdoch (sub for Sting) beat Great Muta on a DQ when Gary Hart tripped the redneck. Post match brawl saw them kick Dickie all over the place. 7) Ric Flair beat Dick Slater in a Texas Death Match with special referee Harley Race. First fall saw Flair clamp on the figure four but Muta jumps in and Hart also joins in and the three work over Flair until Race beats the heck out of Playboy (?) Gary. Flair won the bout when in the fourth fall, Slater couldn't answer the bell after a figure four. Att: 3,899

Worcester Centrum

Worcester, MA

September 25, 1989

Correspondent: Steve Dickinson

1) Paul Roma beat Barry Horowitz with a powerslam. D 2) Dino Bravo pinned Jim Neidhart when the "Anvil" attempted a sunset flip from the ring apron but Bravo grabbed the ropes and sat on Neidhart for the pin. F 3) Curt Hennig downed Tim Horner with a perfevtplex. B- 4) Busherders defeated the Powers of Pain on a count out as Master Fuji hit Warlord by mistake with the cane outside of the ring. F 5) Greg Valentine beat Ron Garvin using the ropes for leverage. D- 6) Jim Duggan beat Ted DiBiase via count out. D 7) Brutus Beefcake pinned Randy Savage as Duggan came out, Randy got on the ring ropes and when he came down, Bruti rolled him up. ATT: 2,000 Abysmal crowd but Vince only ran it to combat Turner two nights later. If Vince only drew 2,000, I shudder to see the NWA's fate.

*****Johnstown War Memorial

Johnstown, PA

September 25, 1989

Correspondent: John Lanigan

I ran the stars above as some of you skip over these reports but this is almost like a mini "Ramblings" with all the info here. This was a TV taping for the two syndies as well as the Power Hour. After you read the results, you'll hope this was a dream. 1) Tommy Rich beat Agent Steel. 2) Midnight Express & Steve Williams beat Lee Scott, Trent Knight, & Jerry Price as Eaton pinned Scott. 3) Dynamic Dudes beat Mike Rotunda & Cuban Assassin in 17:35 as Ace pinned Ass after the wipeout. C- 4) Animal pinned Jacko Victory in 4:41. Rippah Morgan who was at ringside came in and Animal double clotheslined them. He then pinned Secret Service. C

5) Skyscrapers annihilated Lee Scott & Jerry Price. 6) Z Man put John to sleep at 1:25 and Trent Knight to sleep at 3:45. 7) Steiner Bros downed Agent Steel and Bob Emory. 8) Tommy Rich & Eddie Gilbert beat Richard Sartain & Greg Evans as Gilbert has learned the Thesz press as he used it to pin Sartain. Ah, that's what they were doing out late. 9) Animal decapitated Lee Scott (poor guy, three squishes) after Lee had the B - - - to attack before the bell. 10) Midnights & Doc pinned Emory, Steel, & Cruel Connection as Doc stampeded Cruel. 11) Steiners beat Sartain & Knight. 12) Skyscrapers beat Gilbert & Rich in best bout of the night. Spivey pinned Gilbert after a double power bomb. C 13) Greg Evans snoozed against Z Man. 14) Steiners beat Skyscrapers on a count out at 6:50. C- NOTES: John said this was the worst taping he's seen and that includes six of them.... Flair, Pillman, and Sting did an interview but no one wrestled... No Muta, Luger, Freebirds... the list could go on... Hawk no showed due to personal reasons... Jimmy Garvin didn't show due to Hugo planting a tree in his home... Three announced matches and none came off... Attendance was only 600... John had a Piper shirt on in the front row and no hassles... He'll test WWF officials at next weeks Wheeling Tappings with a Flair shirt front row... Samoan Swat Team to be joined by Tonga Kid and Humberdink as their manager... Rumor is that Brian Pillman's apartment was broken into in Atlanta while he was on the road but his girlfriend was home and she was assaulted in the face with an icepick... Would Vince put up with all this no show crap at a WWF taping? I doubt it. Very unorganized. Looks like the next couple of weeks will be dullsville television wise.

Letters To The Editor

Interesting Bus Ride

I was on an express bus which went from the Port Authority in N.Y. to Summer Slam at the Meadowlands Arena; it was jammed with wrestling fans and the rasslin' rumors were flying. Please let me know if you can confirm any of these: 1) Andre the Giant will be leaving wrestling and return to acting. He'll play the romantic lead on a new nighttime soap. The producers will provide words on the screen so that non-wrestling fans understand what he is saying. 2) The major networks are fighting to sign Ronnie Garvin to do play by play but he's turned them down to teach speech at a major university. 3) Now that Elizabeth is getting physical, Randy Savage is suing for divorce, claiming he is an abused husband. He is also claiming emotional cruelty because every time he wrestles, he finds his wife on his opponents side. 4) Terry Taylor has the show biz bug and will leave the WWF. He'll take his Red Rooster character to Romper Room where he'll sing his new hit song, "Keep On Cluckin'". 5) Dusty Rhodes and Vince McMahon will introduce a new line of polka dot clothing for obese people. 6) Zeus will teach method acting at the Lee Stasberg Institute. Graduate Marlon Brando is considering returning as he is interested in Zeus' revolutionary chest thumping technique.

Ron, keep in mind that this bus reminded me of a special education class on a field trip but I'm still counting on you to get to the bottom of these rumors.

Evan Ginzburg
Bayside, NY

A Ginzburg Disciple?

I've got a question for you. You seem to help Evan with his social life problems quite well, so I was wondering if you could help me. I am the only serious wrestling fan in my family, and the nearest arena that hosts wrestling on a regular basis (Meadowlands) is over an hour away.

How are people in this situation supposed to see any "good" WWF matches if Vince keeps cancelling house show tapes? (Philly & Boston) Do you have any ideas?

Andy King
Middletown, NY

RL- Are there such things as good WWF matches? I have an idea. Why don't you ride that bus with Evan to the Meadowlands and you can help each other out. (And leave me alone.) Just kidding.

We Need Dr. Frasier Crane

Sounds like you had a good time in Chi-Town for the UAWF convention. I never received the convention forms until a week before the event and by that time I had lost interest and faith. I've also been sticking close to San Jose these past several weeks to keep an eye on my brother Jack. He just got out of the hospital following a lengthy stay as a result of an injury he sustained during a WWF card at the Oakland Arena. Apparently, two guys carrying a large sign walked in front of him and that's the last thing he remembers. I'm trying to piece together exactly what happened and will let you know when I've got it all straight.

Oh, by the way. Jack really gets angry when people write notes to me and refer to him as being my alter-ego or a figment of my imagination. I don't know why some people find it hard to believe I have an identical twin brother who, for reasons of his own, changed his last name to Hammaroyd. Sure, it broke my parents hearts', but it's not all that uncommon for one twin to do something like that. Identity crises, I suppose.

Even though we look the same and sound somewhat alike, we have our differences. We both enjoy pro wrestling, but while my favorite wrestler is the pre-WWF version of Barry Windham, Jack likes Greg Valentine. I generally skip over most of the Japanese results in the Observer, while Jack reads that stuff twice in case he goes to Japan and is asked a trivia question by Meltzer. My favorite wrestling sheets are published by guys like you, Wade, and Dave. Jack tends to lean toward, uh, obsess on stuff by Zinger, Levine, and Cobb. (RL- Lance is going to love that grouping.) Yeah, I'm puzzled by his choice of bulletins too. I mean, Zinger doesn't really seem to belong on that list, huh? I guess there is no excuse for some people's taste.

Congratulations on surviving your first year of newsletter publishing. Best wishes for another great year of "Arena Report".

Jeff Mullins
San Jose, CA

RL- Thanks Jeff. It's been awhile since I heard from you. Wasn't it you who wrote that letter to me thanking me for turning you on to Levine & Zinger. Sorry, must have been your bro Jack. Do you have a sister named Sybil?

From North Of The Border

Have been contemplating writing to you about "Arena Report". When you asked for a line last issue about publishing twice a month I decided to let you know. YES! Keep it twice a month. Great stuff. Personally, I don't know how you find the time and effort to do it twice a month, but I enjoy reading and looking forward to twice a month and hope you can continue on that schedule.

I subscribe to almost a dozen bulltins in the U.S. and Canada. Without slighting anyone, and with the possible exception of Greg Oliver's "Wrestling Report", yours is by far the best and no one else is even close. (And there are some good ones around.)

Looking forward to continued reading. Keep up the good work.
Greg Miller
Hamilton, Ontario

RL- Hey Greg, How come I received this letter on mimeograph paper with just my name written in? Just kidding. Thanks for the compliments. As you can see, I take them well.

The Zingman

Contrary to Evan Ginzburg's letter (RL- Is this guy becoming a cult hero or what.) in V2, No. 1, I've heard that the next Hulk Hogan movie will feature a rematch with Zeus called, "No Holds Known".

I feel honored to have my name mentioned in the same line as Lance Levine, the self-proclaimed 26th person on PWI's 25 most influential list.

New GAG out soon, believe it or not.
J.Z. Travis
Woodstock, Ontario

RL- Who are you, Mr. Ripley? A new GAG soon and maybe I'll forgive you for no showing Chicago. For anyone interested in Jeff Zinger's newsl... Forget it. Start charging something for it other than Missy and Robin Green posters and maybe I'll plug you. Zingaaaaa.

(continued from page 3)

TV results. Contact John for more info.... Congrats to Dennis Brent who has taken over the NWA magazine. As a special offer to AR readers, Dennis is offering the last year of "Pro Wrestling Digest" for only \$20.00. That's over 400 pages of info. Write to Dennis at PO Box 796488, Dallas, TX 75379. Tell him "AR" sent you.... Adam Horowitz puts out "Between the Ropes". Cost is \$1. Write to Adam at 336 Harbor Dr. Lido Beach, NY 11561.... On a last note. So you wanna be a wrestler. (Sounds like a new show by FNN) Here's a recent itinerary for the boys of the NWA. Tuesday night in Beckley, WV. Four hour drive to Pittsburgh. Catch four hours sleep and then fly to Albany. Three hour car ride to Worcester Wednesday night. Drive back to Albany after the show. Not me.

Final Word

Next issue will be 10/10 from Orlando and the NWA. Line up: Flair vs, Funk, Sting-Muta, Scrapers-Steiners, Freebirds-Dudes and lots more. Better be good. I'll be pulling front roocow. Thanks to all who made this issue work. Until next time. Remember, don't spit into a hurricane.

See ya,

Ron